

Minister Calls with Teamsters, IE Canada

From: Ninu Forrest </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=d02e20dccbd940d5a3bfe2c3d7312ecd-forrest, ni">
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Date: Fri, 11 Feb 2022 22:59:02 +0000
Attachments: A path towards a smart and secure commercial border.pdf (332.68 kB)

Please see below for summaries from calls this afternoon. Let me know if you have any questions.

TEAMSTERS

Blockades

- Francois Laporte: think Ford is taking the necessary steps now, but wished Ontario had stepped up earlier. This has to stop and government has the support of public opinion
- Minister: Thank you for your clear, unequivocal voice on this issue. Know it took courage because of people who are trying to intimidate and spread hate. Your members are doing incredible work on the frontlines and behind the scenes.
- FL: Yes, I have been receiving personal threats but this is the right thing to do. This movement has been using the truckers for their own purposes. Suspect people outside Canada involved. Concerned about how easy it has been to destabilize the border/economy. Raised Line 5 as ongoing irritant.
- Min: Hear you. This is the consequence of a free society, but we have to draw the line somewhere. Reached out to Mulroney and she was slow
- FL: Normally when we are on strike, injunctions are in place within a day telling us what we can / can't do.
- Min: Tasked team/dept for ideas of how to thank drivers. Please share any you have

Labour Issues

- FL: Main issue with CP negotiations is pensions, which they think can be solved. Consulting with members about strike mandate. Heard that CP will exercise its right to lockout. Tradition of the Liberals to let the issue be sorted out (no back-to-work legislation)
- Min: Know Minister O'Regan is aware. Believe in collective bargaining and would like to see a settlement. Concerns about strike/lockout given supply chain issues. CP needs to be aware the government wants them to negotiate
- FL: If we are on strike, it is because we failed. We are in a similar situation with Purolator re: collective bargaining (10-15k drivers). We are back at the negotiating table starting in March.
- Mariam Abou-Dib: On a separate track, Purolator told us the government was mapping itself out of vax mandates soon?
- Min: No, not true. May see easing of measures for vaccinated people, but we campaigned on this.

Border Measures/Air Sector Testing

- FL: lots of frustration in the sector and room to improve the process re: testing when returning to Canada. Snowbirds coming back soon and this issue will heat up.

- Min: current rules are strict because made during Omicron. Understand frustration but stay tuned next week for changes to measures for vaxxed travellers.
- FL: We prefer not to be reactive to government policies. Would appreciate more heads up.
- Min: Can't always do so, but hear you and will strive to communicate/consult better.
- FL: Members want timelines re: restrictions lifting. Seeing PTs start to do so.
- Min: Exact timing is hard, but looking into this pending the health advice.

IE CANADA (IMPORTERS/EXPORTERS)

- Impact is that companies aren't even trying to move goods to the border given the uncertainty. Drivers are refusing to pick up freight because of the cap on their hours. Some of them have been stuck and are sleeping in their trucks or random locations. The trucker shortage means they can refuse to take loads. Rail/air less of an option. Limited space for air cargo anyways. Millions of dollars sitting in US while Cdn production has to shut down.
- Need to have a comprehensive discussion of regulations related to the border. Suggest an inter-agency border council and/or conducting table top exercises to simulate threat response in future. Have a white paper (old) on possible solutions that could be a starting point
- Ask for statements to instill confidence as the situation improves. In the interim, need better communication about which Ports of Entry are available/not.
- Targeting multiple locations at once has exposed the vulnerability of response from government.
- In Prairies, concerns about delays in transferring goods by land to air (via Coutts/Emerson) to provide essential supplies to Northern communities
- Need to look at workforce strategies in the long-term.
- Minister comments:
 - o Need to partner with industry to develop solutions
 - o Acknowledge the labour force concerns – we are looking at it
 - o Welcome ideas aside from new funding programs. BC floods offers a successful model for how we can work together

Best,

Ninu Forrest (she/her/elle)

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C: **Personal Info.**